AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of accessing metrics data comprising:

providing a metrics database comprising metrics data that describes characteristics of a software product;

receiving a query; [[and]]

~~initiating a procedure to retrieve~~ retrieving from the metrics database a set of tags; and [[to]]

~~determine~~ determining a subset of unique tags from the set of tags based on a set of parameters included in the query ~~condition~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~the determination of~~ determining a subset of unique tags comprises:

determining a set of unique identification attributes from the set of tags;

calculating a set of combinations from the set of unique identification attributes; and

selecting a subset of the set of combinations wherein each one of the subset of combinations matches [[a]] one of the set of tags.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~the initiated procedure retrieves~~ retrieving comprises retrieving, from the metrics database, a set of additive attributes associated with each one of the set of tags.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 ~~wherein the initiated procedure~~ further comprising combining ~~combines~~ like additive attributes from the set of additive

attributes associated with each one of the subset of unique tags to provide a set of totaled attributes for the one unique tag.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 ~~wherein the initiated procedure~~ <u>further comprising selecting</u> ~~selects~~ an output set of data from the subset of unique tags and the set of totaled attributes in accordance with [[a]] <u>the</u> set of parameters included in the query.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 <u>further comprising sorting</u> ~~wherein the initiated procedure sorts~~ the output set in accordance with the set of parameters.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 <u>further comprising calculating</u> ~~wherein the initiated procedure calculates~~ a set of derived attributes from the set of totaled attributes for the one unique tag.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the derived attributes are calculated using a derived attribute definition received in a prior query.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 <u>further comprising selecting</u> ~~wherein the initiated procedure selects~~ an output set of data from the subset of unique tags, the set of totaled attributes, and the set of derived attributes in accordance with [[a]] <u>the</u> set of parameters included in the query.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 <u>further comprising sorting</u> ~~wherein the initiated procedure sorts~~ the output set in accordance with the set of parameters.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of grouping metrics data in a metrics database comprising:

    providing a metrics database comprising metrics data that describes
        characteristics of a software product;
    receiving a query;
    ~~initiating a procedure to retrieve~~ <u>retrieving</u> from the metrics database a set of tags
        and a set of additive attributes associated with the set of tags<u>;</u>
    <u>combining,</u> ~~to combine~~ like additive attributes from the set of additive attributes to
        produce a set of group attributes[[,]]<u>;</u> and
    <u>assigning</u> ~~to assign~~ a group tag to the set of group attributes.

12. (Currently Amended) A memory for storing data configured for processing by an interface module being executed on a computer system, comprising:

    a set of tag identifiers; and

    a command for accessing a set of metrics data wherein, upon reading the command, the interface module initiates a get module to retrieve from a metrics database a set of tags corresponding to the set of tag identifiers and to determine a subset of unique tags from the set of tags based on a <u>set of parameters included in the command</u> ~~condition~~.

13. (Original) The memory of claim 12 further comprising a set of additive attribute identifiers associated with each one of the set of tags, wherein the get module retrieves a set of additive attributes corresponding to the set of additive attribute identifiers and combines like additive attributes from the set of additive attributes associated with each one of the subset of unique tags to provide a set of totaled attributes for the one unique tag.

14. (Original) The memory of claim 13 further comprising a set of derived attribute identifiers, wherein the get module calculates a set of derived attributes from the set of totaled attributes based on a set of derived attribute definitions associated with the set of derived attribute identifiers.

15. (Currently Amended) The memory of claim 13 ~~further comprising a set of parameters~~, wherein the get module selects an output set of the set of tags and the set of additive attributes in accordance with the set of parameters.

16. (Currently Amended) The memory of claim 14 ~~further comprising a set of parameters~~, wherein the get module selects an output set of the set of tags, the set of additive attributes, and the set of derived attributes in accordance with the set of parameters.

17. (Original) A memory for storing data configured for processing by an interface module being executed on a computer system, comprising:

a group tag;

a set of tag identifiers; and

a command for grouping a set of metrics data wherein, upon reading the

command, the interface module initiates a grouping module for:

retrieving a set of tags corresponding to the set of tag identifier;

retrieving a set of additive attributes associated with the set of tags;

combining like additive attributes from the set of additive attributes

to produce a set of group attributes, and

assigning the group tag to the set of group attributes.

18. (Currently Amended) A system for interfacing with a metrics database

comprising:

a central processing unit; and

an interface module configured for execution by the central processing unit, the

interface module comprising instructions for:

receiving a query from an application program;

initiating a get module in response to the query, the get module

comprising instructions for:

retrieving from the metrics database a set of tags; and

determining a subset of unique tags from the set of

unique tags based on a set of parameters

included in the query condition.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein the get module further comprises

instructions for:

determining a set of unique identification attributes from the set of tags;

calculating a set of combinations from the set of unique identification attributes;

and

selecting a subset of the set of combinations wherein each one of the subset of combinations matches a one of the set of tags.

20. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein the get module further comprises instructions for retrieving from the metrics database a set of additive attributes associated with each one of the set of tags.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the get module further comprises instructions for combining like additive attributes from the set of additive attributes associated with each one of the subset of unique tags to provide a set of totaled attributes for the one unique tag.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21 wherein the get module further comprises instructions for selecting an output set of metrics data from the subset of unique tags and the set of totaled attributes in accordance with [[a]] the set of parameters included in the query.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein the get module further comprises instructions for sorting the output set in accordance with the set of parameters.

24. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the get module further comprises instructions for calculating a set of derived attributes from the set of totaled attributes for the one unique tag.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein the get module further comprises instructions for calculating the set of derived attributes using a derived attribute definition.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24 wherein the get module further comprises instructions for selecting an output set of data from the subset of unique tags, the set of totaled attributes and the set of derived attributes in accordance with [[a]] the set of parameters included in the query.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26 wherein the get module further comprises instructions for sorting the output set in accordance with the set of parameters.

28. (Original) A system for interfacing with a metrics database comprising:

a central processing unit; and

an interface module, configured for execution by the central processing unit, the interface module comprising instructions for:

receiving a query from an application program; and

initiating a grouping module in response to the query, the grouping module comprising instructions for:

retrieving from the metrics database a set of tags and a set of additive attributes associated with the set of tags in response to the query;

combining like additive attributes from the set of additive attributes to produce a set of group attributes; and

assigning a group tag to the set of group attributes.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for use in conjunction with a computer system, the computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium and a computer program mechanism embedded therein, the computer program mechanism comprising:

an interface module comprising instructions for receiving a query; and

a get module comprising instructions for:

retrieving from a metrics database a set of tags; and

determining a subset of unique tags from the set of tags based on a set of parameters included in the query condition.

30. (Original) The computer program mechanism of claim 29 wherein the get module further comprises instructions for:

determining a set of unique identification attributes from the set of tags;
calculating a set of combinations from the set of unique identification attributes; and
selecting a subset of the set of combinations wherein each one of the subset of combinations matches a one of the set of tags.

31. (Original) The computer program mechanism of claim 29 wherein the get module further comprises instructions for retrieving a set of additive attributes associated with each one of the set of tags.

32. (Original) The computer program mechanism of claim 31 wherein the get module further comprises instructions for combining like additive attributes from the set

of additive attributes associated with each one of the subset of unique tags to provide a set of totaled attributes for the one unique tag.

33. (Currently Amended) The computer program mechanism of claim 32 wherein the get module further comprises instructions for selecting an output set of data from the subset of unique tags and the set of totaled attributes in accordance with [[a]] the set of parameters included in the query.

34. (Original) The computer program mechanism of claim 33 wherein the get module further comprises instructions for sorting the output set in accordance with the set of parameters.

35. (Original) The computer program mechanism of claim 32 wherein the get module further comprises instructions for calculating a set of derived attributes from the set of totaled attributes for the one unique tag.

36. (Original) The computer program mechanism of claim 35 wherein the get module further comprises instructions for calculating the derived attributes using a derived attribute definition.

37. (Currently Amended) The computer program mechanism of claim 35 wherein the get module further comprises instructions for selecting an output set of data

from the subset of unique tags, the set of totaled attributes, and the set of derived

attributes in accordance with [[a]] the set of parameters included in the query.

38. (Original) The computer program mechanism of claim 37 wherein the get

module further comprises instructions for sorting the output set in accordance with the

set of parameters.

39. (Original) A computer program product for use in conjunction with a

computer system, the computer program product comprising a computer readable

storage medium and a computer program mechanism embedded therein, the computer

program mechanism comprising:

an interface module comprising instructions for receiving a query;

a grouping module comprising instructions for:

retrieving from a metrics database a set of tags and a set of additive

attributes associated with the set of tags in response to a query;

adding together like additive attributes from the set of additive attributes to

produce a set of group attributes; and

assigning a group tag to the set of group attributes.